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A method of compression of graphic images which make up a video stream, comprising the steps of:

- sub-sampling a number of pixel bits from an image selected from said
- (b) run-length encoding repeated instances of said number of pixel bits; repeating steps (b) and (c) until each said number of pixel bits is encoded in an encoded data buffer.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the image dimensions are less than or equal to 320 by 240.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said number of pixel bits is one of the set of 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, and 24.
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said number of pixel bits is extracted from the most significant bits of each color component.

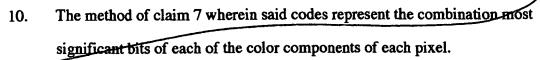
An encoded video signal comprising a series of said encoded data buffers.

A storage medium in which the encoded video signal as claimed in claim 5 is stored.

A method of decompressing an encoded video signal, comprising the steps of:

- a reading a stream of run-length encoded codes;
- (b) determining a series of pixels based on the values and run-lengths of said odes;
- (c) combining said pixels into an image; and
- 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of displaying a series of said images.
- 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the width and the height of said image are less than or equal to 320 by 240, respectively.

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A machine for compressing of a plurality of video frames which make up a video signal, comprising

- (a) a video digitizer configured to digitizing a frame from said video frames;
- (b) a video memory which is able to receive a plurality of pixels from said video digitizer;
- (c) a encoding circuit for counting repeated instances of a pixel value when scanning said plurality of pixels and outputting a series of encoded data comprising a combined run-length field and a data field.
- (d) a memory which is able to store said encoded data;
- (e) an input output device.
- 12. The machine of claim 11 wherein said encoding circuit variably selects one of a set of 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, and 24, as the number of pixel bits.
- 13. The machine of claim 12 wherein said pixel value is extracted from the most significant bits of each color component.
- 14. The machine of claim 11 wherein said input output device is a storage medium.
- 15. The machine of claim 11 wherein said input/output device is a communications transmission channel.
- 16. A machine for decompressing an stream of encoded data that represents a video signal, comprising:
  - (a) an input/output device for reading said stream of encoded data;
  - (b) a decoding circuit which can decode the encoded data and output a stream of pixel values; and
  - (c) a memory that is able to store an image comprising said stream of pixel values that can be displayed as frames of a video sequence.

- 17. The method of claim 1 wherein one or more of the settings of width, height, frame rate, brightness, and contrast of said images are variably altered by a receiver of said encoded data.
- 18. The method of claim 1 wherein said number of pixel bits are variably altered by a receiver of said encoded data.
- 19. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of compressing said buffer with a lossless technique known in the art.
- 20. The method of claim 8 wherein said images are enlarged by stretching prior to said displaying.
- 21. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of encrypting said number of pixel bits.